123. In addition to the above the reserved forest at Manjri Budruk in the Haveli Range, known as the Manjri Kuran, representing an area of 278 acres, the value of the grass of which in ordinary years is assessed at Rs. 692, was transferred permanently to the Agricultural Department.

124. In the Sátára Division an area of 220 acres of reserved forests, assessed at Rs. 265, was placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department for the purpose of exploiting grass.

(2).—Grazing.

125. The following statement shows the number of cattle of different kinds which grazed in the forests during the year 1895-96 and 1896-97 :—

No.	Division.	Buffaloes.		Cows and Bullocks.		Goats and Sheep.		Camels.		Other Animals.		Total.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khándesh ..	25,863	24,062	151,448	155,775	71,467	24,920	...	...	1,328	903	250,106	205,660
2	West Khándesh ..	18,277	20,829	173,404	140,565	292,003	270,264	...	...	6,869	4,175	490,553	435,833
3	Násik	11,234	12,080	183,996	184,804	37,232	35,281	...	...	860	841	233,322	233,006
4	Ahmednagar	4,955	3,366	103,649	101,129	57,198	59,009	...	...	393	381	166,195	163,885
5	Poona	17,892	15,853	98,070	120,125	65,192	54,250	...	...	263	110	181,422	188,338
6	Sátára	10,286	8,520	59,885	61,535	65,085	58,122	...	...	11	...	135,267	128,177
7	Sholápur	2,208	441	29,916	14,324	...	...	...	...	30	377	32,154	15,142
	Total ...	90,715	83,151	800,368	778,257	588,177	501,846	...	...	6,759	6,787	1,489,019	1,370,041

126. And the following of the above numbers respectively enjoyed free grazing compared with those of preceding year, under free grazing permits issued :—

No.	Division.	Buffaloes.		Cows and Bullocks.		Goats and Sheep.		Other Animals.		Total.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khándesh ...	2,622	2,387	8,470	12,573	...	...	109	260	11,201	15,220
2	West Khándesh ...	2,054	3,805	23,561	18,129	194	240	376	189	26,185	22,363
3	Násik	2,305	1,895	76,772	74,946	300	300	502	502	79,879	77,643
4	Ahmednagar	385	385	5,423	4,237	...	...	...	...	5,808	4,622
5	Poona	13,352	12,347	78,365	108,410	...	...	24	3	91,741	120,760
6	Sátára	6,104	5,736	37,335	46,764	...	...	...	...	43,439	52,500
7	Sholápur	716	211	5,414	8,871	...	...	...	374	6,130	9,456
	Total ...	27,538	26,766	235,340	273,930	494	540	1,011	1,328	264,383	302,564

127. But when forest areas, excepting those specially under re-forestry, such as compartments of forest blocks which have been worked recently, trees having been felled and timber exploited, and the coupe subsequently sown up, and regular plantations, were opened for the free grazing of cattle in the distressed tracts, which covered the whole area of the Central Circle, by order of the Commissioner, C. D., in communication with the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, during the month of November 1896, the issue of free grazing permits was suspended and all and any cattle were permitted to enter and to graze without hindrance or interference, so that the figures in the foregoing table do not show anything like the total number of cattle that enjoyed free grazing in the forests during the year.

128. A comparison between the grass and grazing receipts of the year of this report and of 1895-96 is represented in the subjoined statement :—

No.	Division.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Remarks.
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	East Khándesh	86,238	81,063	
2	West Khándesh	1,20,067	1,04,163	
3	Násik	54,050	59,333	
4	Ahmednagar	38,960	38,193	
5	Poona	46,818	40,127	
6	Sátára	39,963	35,330	
7	Sholápur	21,304	20,047	
8	Famine grass and grazing ...	...	66,351	
	Total ...	4,07,400	4,44,607	

129. There is a decrease in the revenue from the sale of grass and grazing during the year under report in almost all the divisions of the Central Circle, which is seemingly owing to the fact that as the rainfall was unseasonable and deficient, the crop of grass was very uncertain and eventually proved to be comparatively scanty in the moist region bordering the Syhádris, while in the eastern parts of the Circle there was little or no grass. Another cause of the diminished revenue is that free grazing was conceded to all village cattle by the end of November 1896. But the decrease in fees and in sale receipts of fodder grass has been more than made up by famine grass operations undertaken by the orders of Government for the supply of hay to the starving cattle in the famine-affected areas.

130. The cattle census of the different Collectorates comprising the Central Circle is as under :—

No.	Collectorate.	Cows and Bullocks.	Buffaloes.	Horses and Ponies.	Asses and Mules.	Sheep.	Goats.	Camels.	Other Animals.	Total.
1	Khándesh ...	674,246	173,315	24,311	7,482	32,348	214,905	7	13	1,126,627
2	Násik	453,088	67,861	16,117	3,385	102,213	129,059	...	...	771,723
3	Ahmednagar ...	552,969	49,239	22,052	7,187	247,366	193,455	9	...	1,072,277
4	Poona	476,252	68,024	13,052	5,659	211,802	112,364	6	...	887,159
5	Sátára	488,548	150,256	13,235	3,048	336,954	119,243	...	...	1,111,284
6	Sholápur ...	293,519	24,987	8,610	3,015	170,290	119,657	42	...	620,120
	Total ...	2,938,622	533,682	97,377	29,776	1,100,973	888,683	64	13	5,589,190

(3).—*Miscellaneous Produce.*

131. Hirda, the fruit of Terminalia chebula, is the main item of miscellaneous products which are exploited for sale from the forests of the Central Circle, while shikakái, the pod of Acacia concinna, tarvad, the bark of Cassia auriculata, the leaves of apta, Bauhinia racimosa, and temburni, Diospyros melanoxylon, are exploited for sale, but to a lesser degree. In like manner flowers, fruits, honey, wax and other items of minor forest produce assist to swell the revenue under this head.

132. In the East Khándesh Division there was a great fall in the revenue derived from rosha grass oil manufacture during the year under report, Rs. 300 being realized against Rs. 555 in 1895-96.

133. In West Khándesh Rs. 11,349 were realized for the right to cut the rosha grass during the year as against Rs. 16,425 the year before. No revenue is derived from mhowra flowers, and there is no hirda in this division.

134. In the Násik Division there was no demand for rosha grass this year, consequently it was not sold. Rs. 2,040 were realized by the sale of apta and temburni leaves during 1896-97 as against Rs. 1,666 in 1895-96. About 26 deshi khandis of collected hirda nuts were sold for Rs. 1,353 as against Rs. 715 in 1895-96.

135. In the Ahmednagar Division produce exploited under this head consists of stones, earth, kárvi, tarvad, bábul pods, &c., the revenue being Rs. 2,092 against Rs. 1,911 of the previous year, and the hirda crop realized Rs. 1,413, the amount collected being 40 deshi khandis.

136. In the Poona Division the crop of myrobolans realized Rs. 2,333 during the year under report as against Rs. 2,914 in 1895-96, the decrease in question being chiefly due to the poorness of the crop.

137. In the Sátára Division the right to collect hirda in the Mahábaleshvar, Pátan and Shirála ranges was farmed out; and in the Jávli, Wái and Sátára ranges it was collected departmentally, and though the prices fell seriously low in the Bombay market, still the sale results of this crop were satisfactory. Owing to a very poor crop of shikakái the revenue realized from this source was very insignificant. All minor products as per Form No. 58 produced Rs. 20,401.

138. In the Sholápur Division a sum of Rs. 533 was realized by sale of other minor produce, of which Rs. 490 were from stones taken on permits.